CLAIMS

1. A method comprising:

receiving multimedia content from a source;

creating a linked set of components to process the multimedia content;

determining authority to record the multimedia content;

providing a recording component in the linked set of components to record the multimedia content if authorized to record the multimedia content; and

rendering the multimedia content with use of the linked set of components.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the receiving is from an Internet website.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the receiving comprises protected multimedia content.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the receiving comprises encrypted multimedia content and the determining is based as to the ability to decrypt the multimedia content.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the creating comprises components to render the multimedia content whether providing a recording component is performed or not.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the creating is performed for every instance multimedia content is received.

7. The method of claim 7 wherein the linked set of components is destroyed once rendering is complete.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the determining authority is based on a predetermined protocol with the source.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the predetermined protocol is based on encryption and decryption keys shared with the source.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein the providing the recording component is omitted if not authorized to record the multimedia content.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein the providing a recording component comprises a writer component connected to the recording component which stores the multimedia content to a local storage device.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein the multiplexes audio and video content.

13. The method of claim 11 wherein the writer component compresses the multimedia prior to storing to the local storage device.

14. The method of claim 11 wherein the write component makes use of a predetermined protocol to store the multimedia content to the local storage device, where the predetermined protocol is used to play back the multimedia content.

15. The method of claim 1 wherein the providing is based on the recording component being registered to be installed in the linked set of components.

16. The method of claim 1 further comprising establishing a user interface component to the recording component.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein the user interface component provides status as to recording and rendering states.

18. The method of claim 16 wherein the user interface component is part of a media player that comprises the linked set of components.

19. The method of claim 16 wherein the user interface component is external to a media player that comprises the linked set of components.

20. A personal computer that performs the method of claim 1.

21. A method comprising:

receiving a stream of multimedia content from a source;

separating the streamed multimedia content into audio content and video content;

initiating a first linked set of components to process the audio content, and a second linked set of components to process the video content;

creating a first recording component in the first linked set of components to record the audio content if authorized, and a second recording component in the second linked set of components to record video content if authorized; and

providing audio output from the first linked set of components and video output from the second linked set of components.

22. The method of claim 21 wherein the receiving the stream of multimedia content is from a separate source on a network.

23. The method of claim 21 wherein the receiving the stream of multimedia content is from an Internet source.

24. The method of claim 21 wherein the receiving the stream comprises protected multimedia content.

25. The method of claim 21 wherein the creating is performed based on registration of the first recording component as authorized to record audio content, and registration of the second recording component as authorized to record video content.

26. The method of claim 25 wherein the creating of first and second recording components is based on a predetermined protocol to allow recording of audio and video content.

27. The method of claim 25 wherein the creating of the first recording component as authorized to record if audio content is not protected, and creating the second recording component as authorized if video content is not protected.

28. The method of claim 25 wherein the creation of the first recording component as authorized to record if a predetermined protocol is established to allow audio content to be copied, and creation of the second recording component as authorized if the predetermined protocol is established to allow video content to be copied.

29. A computer comprising:

means for receiving streaming multimedia content;

means for rendering the streaming multimedia content;

means for storing the streaming multimedia content if so authorized; and

means for playing back the stored multimedia content.

30. The computer of claim 29 wherein the multimedia content comprises audio content and video content.

31. The computer of claim 29 wherein the means for receiving is from an Internet website.

32. The computer of claim 29 wherein the means for rendering comprises creating a linked set of components.

33. The computer of claim 32 wherein the linked set of components comprises a recording component.

34. The computer of claim 32 wherein the linked set of components is created for every instance multimedia content is received.

35. The computer of claim 29 wherein the means for storing comprises a writer component that is initiated if multimedia content is authorized to be stored.

36. The computer of claim 29 wherein the means for storing comprises setting a flag in a recording component to indicate that multimedia content is authorized to be stored.

37. A computer comprising:

a memory;

a processor coupled to the memory; and

instructions stored in the memory and executable on the processor to access streaming multimedia content from a source, render the streaming multimedia content, initiate a recording component to record the multimedia content if the computer is so authorized, and store multimedia content to a local storage device.

38. The computer of claim 37 wherein the streaming multimedia content is received from an Internet website.

39. The computer of claim 37 wherein the streaming multimedia comprises encrypted multimedia content.

40. The computer of claim 39 wherein the computer is so authorized to record the multimedia content if the computer is able to decrypt the encrypted multimedia content.

41. The computer of claim 37 wherein the instructions further comprise separating the multimedia content into audio content and video content that are rendered separately.

42. The computer of claim 37 wherein the instructions further comprise providing a user interface to initiate rendering and recording.

43. The computer of claim 42 wherein the user interface provides status as to playing and recording states.

44. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing steps comprising:

contacting a server computer to send multimedia content;

receiving the multimedia content;

separating the multimedia content into audio content and video content;

decompressing the audio content and video content;

creating an instance of a recording component to record the decompressed audio content and video content if so authorized to record;

rendering to audio output the decompressed audio content and to video output the decompressed video content; and

destroying the instance of the recording component after the multimedia content is rendered.

45. The computer-readable medium of claim 44 further comprising a step of writing the decompressed audio and video content to a local file if so authorized to record.

46. The computer-readable medium of claim 44 further comprising a step of providing states as to recording and rendering.

47. A system comprising:

a server computer; and

a playback computer configured to receive multimedia content from the server computer, render the multimedia content, and write the multimedia content to a storage device if so authorized.

48. The system of claim 47 wherein the server computer is a website server computer connected to the playback computer by the Internet.

49. The system of claim 47 wherein the multimedia content comprises audio content and video content.

50. The system of claim 47 wherein the multimedia content is streamed from the server computer to the playback computer.

51. The system of claim 47 wherein the multimedia content includes protected multimedia content.

52. The system of claim 51 wherein the server computer and the playback computer exchange keys in order for the playback computer to render the multimedia content.

53. The system of claim 47 wherein the server computer authorizes the playback computer to record the multimedia content by a predetermined protocol.

54. The system of claim of claim 53 wherein the predetermined protocol comprises exchange of decryption and encryption keys for protected multimedia content.